



BLACKFEET NATION

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrick "Pat" Thomas, Chairman
Jesse "Jay" St. Goddard, Vice-Chairman
Frederick Guardipee, Secretary
Joe Gervais- Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

William "Allen" TalksAbout
Patrick "Pat" Thomas
Frederick "Fred" Guardipee
Betty N. Cooper
Hugh Monroe
Jesse "Jay" St. Goddard
Patrick "Sam" Schildt
Earl OldPerson
James "Jimmy" St. Goddard

RESOLUTION

No. 134-2006

- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is the duly constituted governing body within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and;
- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, interests, education and resources of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and;
- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is empowered to negotiate with federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the Tribe by Article VI, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Blackfeet Tribe, and;
- WHEREAS,** Section 1813 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the Departments of Energy and Interior to prepare a study on the compensation practices and policy implications associated with the issuance of tribal consent for energy-related rights-of-way crossing tribal lands ("Right-of-Way Study"); and
- WHEREAS,** The Right-of-Way Study is a matter of great importance to the Tribe and to all tribes and may have significant implications regarding future legislation and tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** Under longstanding law, the consent of the governing body of a tribe must be obtained as a condition for the grant or renewal of a right-of-way across tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** The tribal consent requirement is a critical aspect of tribal sovereignty that allows tribal governments to negotiate acceptable terms, including those related to duration and compensation, for the use of tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribe has reviewed the attached statement of principles and has determined that these principles should be incorporated in the Right-of-Way Study and maintained as a matter of federal law and policy.

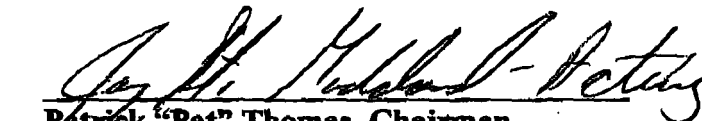
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blackfeet Tribe hereby approves the attached statement of principles and authorizes distribution of this Resolution as an official policy statement of the Blackfeet Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Departments of Energy and Interior for inclusion in the record related to the Right-of-Way Study.

ATTEST:

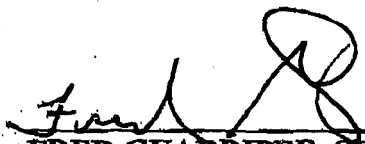
THE BLACKFEET TRIBE OF THE
BLACKFEET INDIAN NATION


Fred Guardipee, Secretary


Patrick "Pat" Thomas, Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in a duly called, noticed and convened Regular Session assembled the 11th day of May, 2006, with SIX (6) members present to constitute a quorum and with a vote of SIX (6) members FOR and ZERO (0) OPPOSED.


FRED GUARDIPEE, SECRETARY

(corporate seal)

INDIAN TRIBES – PARTNERS IN AMERICA’S ENERGY FUTURE
SECTION 1813 RIGHT-OF-WAY STUDY – TRIBAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Tribal Sovereignty and Consent.** The power of tribes to prevent third parties from using tribal lands without tribal consent is a critical element of tribal sovereignty that has been established in Federal law and policy for over 200 years. The tribal consent requirement to the use of tribal lands should be honored and preserved.
2. **Conditions to Consent.** The tribal consent requirement includes the power of tribes to place conditions on the use of tribal lands, including conditions related to tribal jurisdiction, preservation of environmental and cultural resources, duration of use, and compensation.
3. **No Negative Effects.** Adherence to the tribal consent requirement has resulted in greater energy production in Indian country and lower energy costs to consumers. The tribal consent requirement for rights-of-way has not had a noticeable negative effect on the availability or cost of energy to consumers.
4. **Preservation of Tribal Jurisdiction.** No right-of-way agreement or other business arrangement that permits third-party use of tribal land should reduce the sovereign power of a tribe over its lands or the activities conducted on its lands in the absence of the specific consent of the tribe.
5. **Restricted Duration of Rights-of-Way.** Federal law and policy should not be changed to require perpetual rights-of-way or automatic renewals of rights-of-way because such changes would deprive tribes of management and control of their lands.
6. **Negotiated Compensation.** Tribes should continue to have the right to negotiate compensation for the use of tribal land that gives tribes a fair share of the economic benefits produced by use of their lands. Such revenues sustain tribal governments and cultures.
7. **National Security.** Indian nations are an integral component of energy security of the United States, not a threat to that security. History demonstrates that tribes have permitted critical energy facilities to be used pending compensation negotiations even in cases where tribal rights-of-way have expired.
8. **Industry Partnerships – Best Practices.** Federal law and policy should provide positive incentives to tribes and industry to foster partnerships and the mutual alignment of economic interests related to energy development, transmission and distribution.
9. **Appropriate Deference.** As reflected in the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005, deference to tribal decision-making should remain a fundamental component of Federal Indian energy policy.
10. **Allottee Experience.** The creation of a Federal administrative valuation process for fixing tribal right-of-way compensation would be an affront to tribal sovereignty and, as shown by the disastrous Federal management of Indian allottee resources, would be a mistake.